Mr. C. J. Mathew.—The answer given to (e) is 'male and female ward attendants and relations of the patients, if any, available are utilised to nurse patients.' Are they qualified for the work?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—They have no technical qualification. But they have practical, elementary knowledge of the method of attending to patients.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Would the new nurses be appointed from Chingam onwards?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—There are no nurses ready. They are to be taken to be trained,—early in Chingam—and immediately they are trained and ready, they will be appointed.

Management of the Leper Asylum.

62. Mr.C.J. Mathew.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether it is finally decided by them to hand over the management of the Leper Hospital at Adur to the Salvation Army; and if so,

(b) when was it decided and what are the terms of reference or agreement between the Government on one side and Salvation Army on the other?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—(a) Final orders have not been passed in the matter.

(b) No answer is necessary in view of the answer given above.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—At what stage does the idea of transferring the management of the Leper Asylum stand now?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Final orders will be passed very soon.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Is it decided to hand it over?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—We cannot say, unless we put it down in writing.

63. Mr.T.A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the management of the Leper Asylum has been handed over to the Salvation Army; if so, on what conditions; will a copy of the agreement be placed on the table?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—The management of the Leper Asylum has not yet been handed over to the Salvation Army.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—May I know what are the terms for the handing over of the management of the Leper Asylum?

President.—A draft agreement has been prepared, and it has not been examined and officially passed. I suppose, I am right, Dr. Verghese?

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Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes.

Adequacy of the supply of medicines.

64. **Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to state whether the medicines supplied to each of the hospitals and dispensaries of the State during the year 1105, have been found to be quite adequate to meet the demand in each place?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No report to the contrary has been received.

Non-official visitors to the Leper Asylum.

65. **Mr. C. J. Mathew.**—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

1. whether non-official visitors have been appointed by the Government to visit the hospital for lepers; and if so, who are these gentlemen ;

2. whether any one of them has visited: and if so, who all have paid visits during the year 1105 and how many times by each one of them ;

3. whether the non-official visitors have brought to the notice of the Government any case of hardship the lepers may be subject to or whether they have made any suggestion of a constructive nature for any improvement in the general treatment of the lepers by the official world in charge of them ;

4. whether any case of ill-treatment of the lepers by servants been brought to the notice of the Government by anybody?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Vide answer to question No. 106 (VI) of the Legislative Session of Vrischigam 1101.

2. No one has visited the Asylum in 1105.

3. No.

4. No.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—It is stated here that in the course of the year 1105 no non-official whatsoever visited the Asylum. Has any action been taken or any step taken to see that those non-officials are removed and other non-officials are instituted instead?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—No steps have been taken for the reason that the Leper Asylum was soon to be transferred, and one of the agreements is that a body of official and non-official visitors is to be appointed for the Asylum.

Mr. C. J. Mathew.—That is to be brought into existence after the transfer of the management of the Adur Leper Asylum. But what about the present Asylum? What is the object of non-official visitors appointed to this Leper Asylum? Is not that object defeated by their not visiting at all?

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